STATEMENT FROM THE TENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SARCOF-10) HELD IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA 6 – 7 SEPTEMBER 2006.

1.0 SUMMARY

The northern parts of the SADC region (DRC, northeastern part of Angola, northern Tanzania, most of northern Zambia, southern Malawi and part of northern Mozambique) have an increased chance of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall during the October–December 2006 season. The remaining parts of Tanzania, most of Mozambique, northern Malawi, southern and extreme northeastern part of Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern parts of South Africa and Swaziland, most of Botswana, bulk of Angola, Namibia and southern flank of South Africa, northwestern part of Madagascar and Mauritius have increased chances of receiving normal to below-normal rainfall. Most parts of South Africa, Namibia, Madagascar, Botswana, Swaziland, Angola and the whole of Lesotho have increased chances of experiencing normal to above-normal rainfall.

Most of the SADC countries have increased chances of receiving normal to above-normal rainfall during JFM 2007. Northern Tanzania has a greater chance of receiving above normal rainfall. However, southwestern part of DRC, greater part of Angola, western Zambia, extreme western part of Zimbabwe, Botswana, most of Namibia, greater part of South Africa, Lesotho and most of Swaziland have a greater chance of receiving normal to below-normal rainfall.

2.0 THE TENTH SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

The tenth Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 6–7 September 2006 to come up with a consensus forecast for the 2006/2007 rainfall season over SADC. This outlook has been prepared by climate scientists from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) within the SADC region. Additional contributions were from the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre, Harare (DMCH) and International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), USA and products from other global climate prediction centres such as National centres for Environmental Predictions, European Centre for Medium- Range weather Forecasts (ECMWF), Meteo France and UK Met Office were used.

This outlook covers the major rainfall season (October 2006–March 2007). This Outlook is relevant only to seasonal time-scales and relatively large areas and may not fully account for all factors that influence regional and national climate variability, such as local and month-to-month variations (intra-seasonal). Users are strongly advised to contact the respective National Meteorological Services for interpretation of this Outlook, additional guidance and updates.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

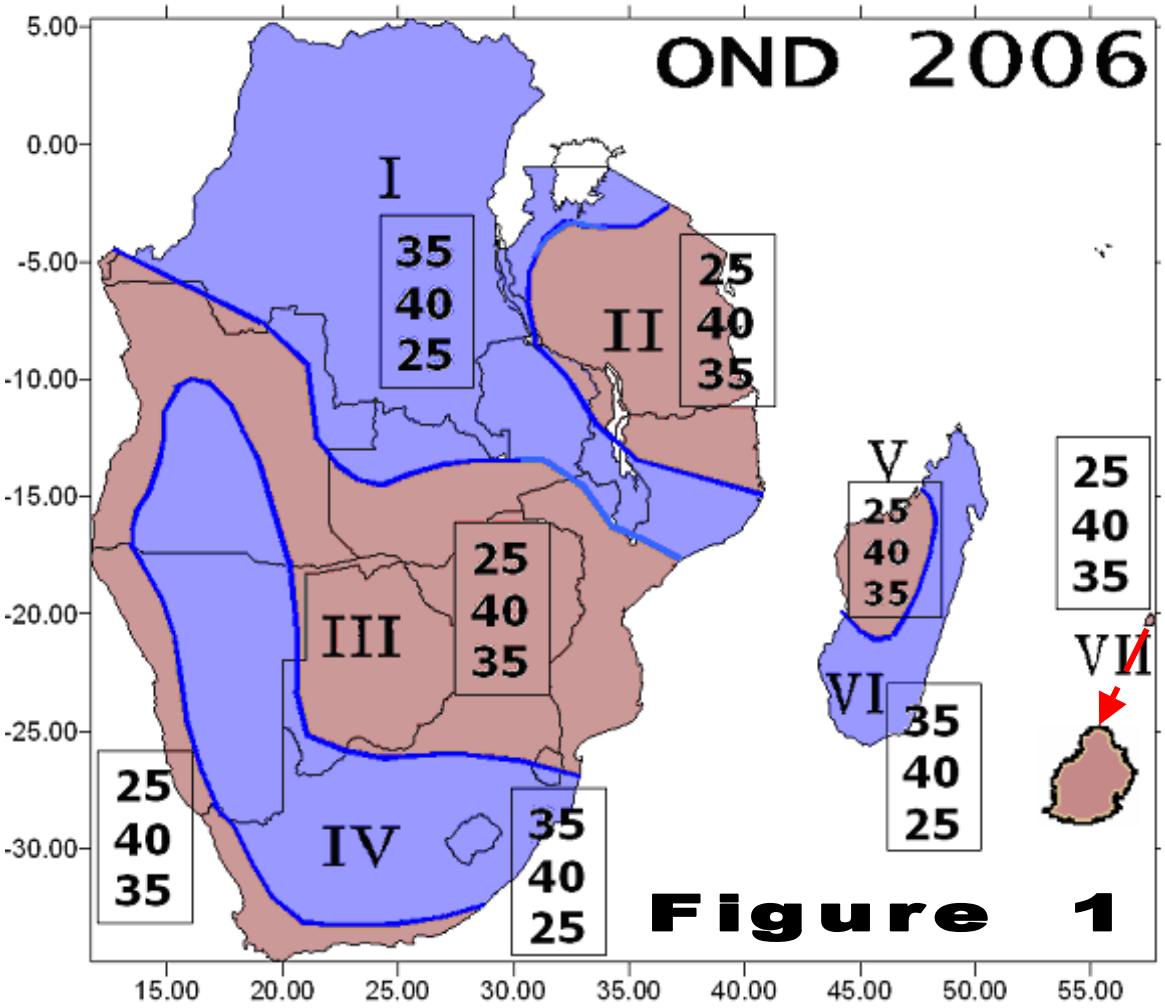
The climate scientists determined likelihoods of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall for each area (see Figures 1 and 2). Above-normal rainfall is defined as within the wettest third of recorded rainfall amounts; below-normal is defined as within the driest third of rainfall amounts and normal is the middle third, centered on the climatological median.

4.0 OUTLOOK

October to March is the main rainfall season over most of southern Africa. Owing to the differences in the rainfall-bearing systems, the rainy season has been divided into two three-month seasons (i.e. October–December and January–March).

5.0 CONTRIBUTORS

The Tenth Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-10) was organized by Botswana Meteorological Services in collaboration with SADC Drought Monitoring Centre (Harare). It was sponsored by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Health Organization (WHO), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Global Programs (NOAA/OGP), and Government of Botswana.



Zone I: Most of DRC, northeastern Angola, northern Zambia, southern Malawi, parts of northern Mozambique and northern Tanzania.
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone II: Bulk of Tanzania, northernmost Mozambique, northern Malawi and northern flank of Zambia.
Increased chances of Normal to Below-normal rainfall

Zone III: Bulk of Mozambique, northern Swaziland, northern fringe and coastal areas of South Africa, greater part of Botswana, Zimbabwe, southern Zambia, most of Angola, western coastal areas and easternmost Namibia.
Increased chances of Normal to Below-normal rainfall

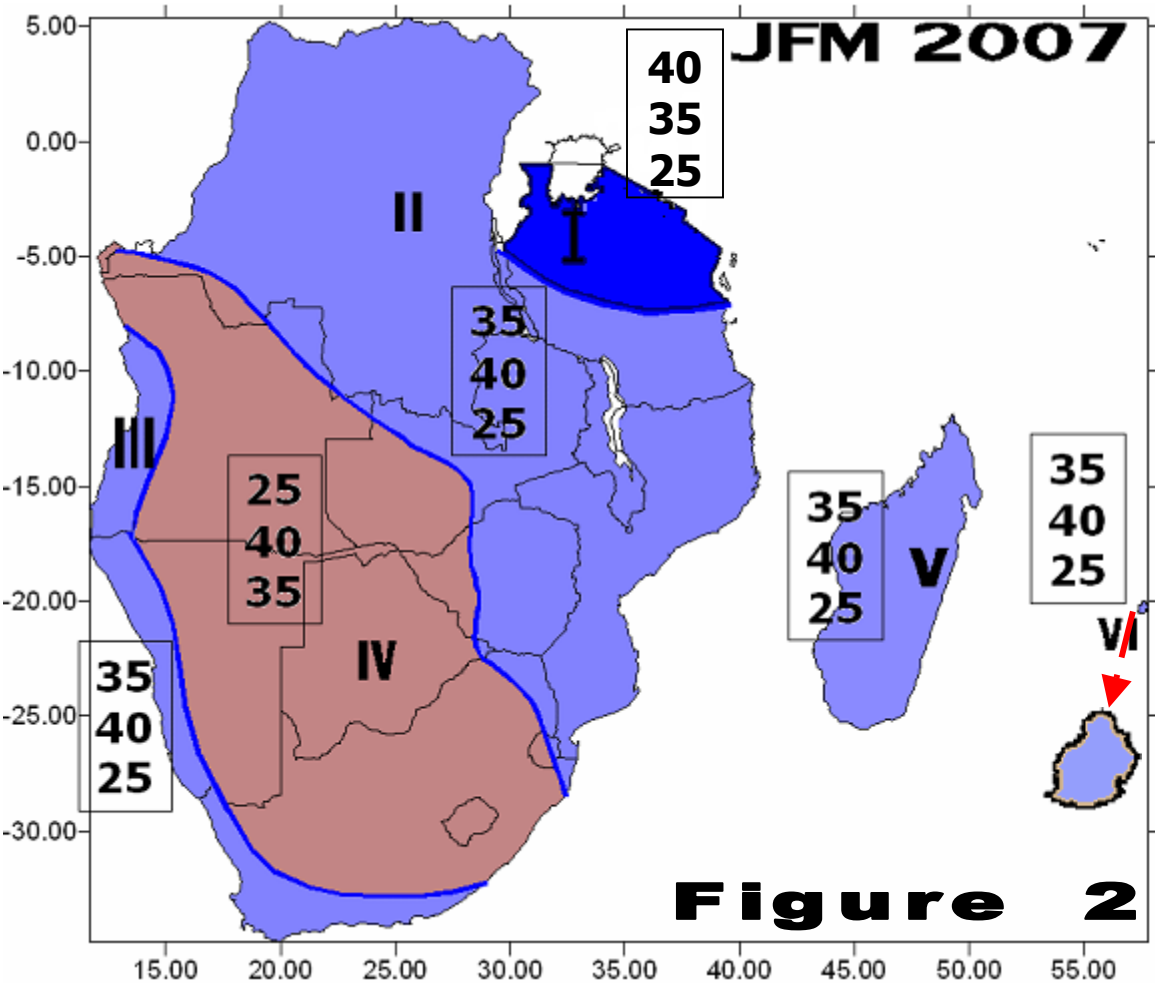
Zone IV: Central and southern Angola, greater part of Namibia, extreme southwest Botswana, most of South Africa, Lesotho and southern Swaziland.
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone V: Central and western Madagascar

Increased chances of Normal to Below-normal rainfall

Zone VI: Most of Madagascar.
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone VII: Mauritius.
Increased chances Normal to Below-normal rainfall



Zone I: Northern Tanzania.
Increased chances of Above-normal rainfall

Zone II: Bulk of DRC, extreme northeastern Angola, greater part of Zambia, southern Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, most of Zimbabwe, extreme northeast South Africa and eastern Swaziland.
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone III: Extreme southernwestern DRC, most of Angola, western Zambia, western Zimbabwe, Botswana, greater part of Namibia, bulk of South Africa, Lesotho and western Swaziland.
Increased chances of Normal to Below-normal rainfall

Zone IV: Western coastal areas of both Angola and Namibia, western and southern Cape of South Africa.

Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone V: Madagascar
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

Zone VI: Mauritius
Increased chances of Normal to Above-normal rainfall

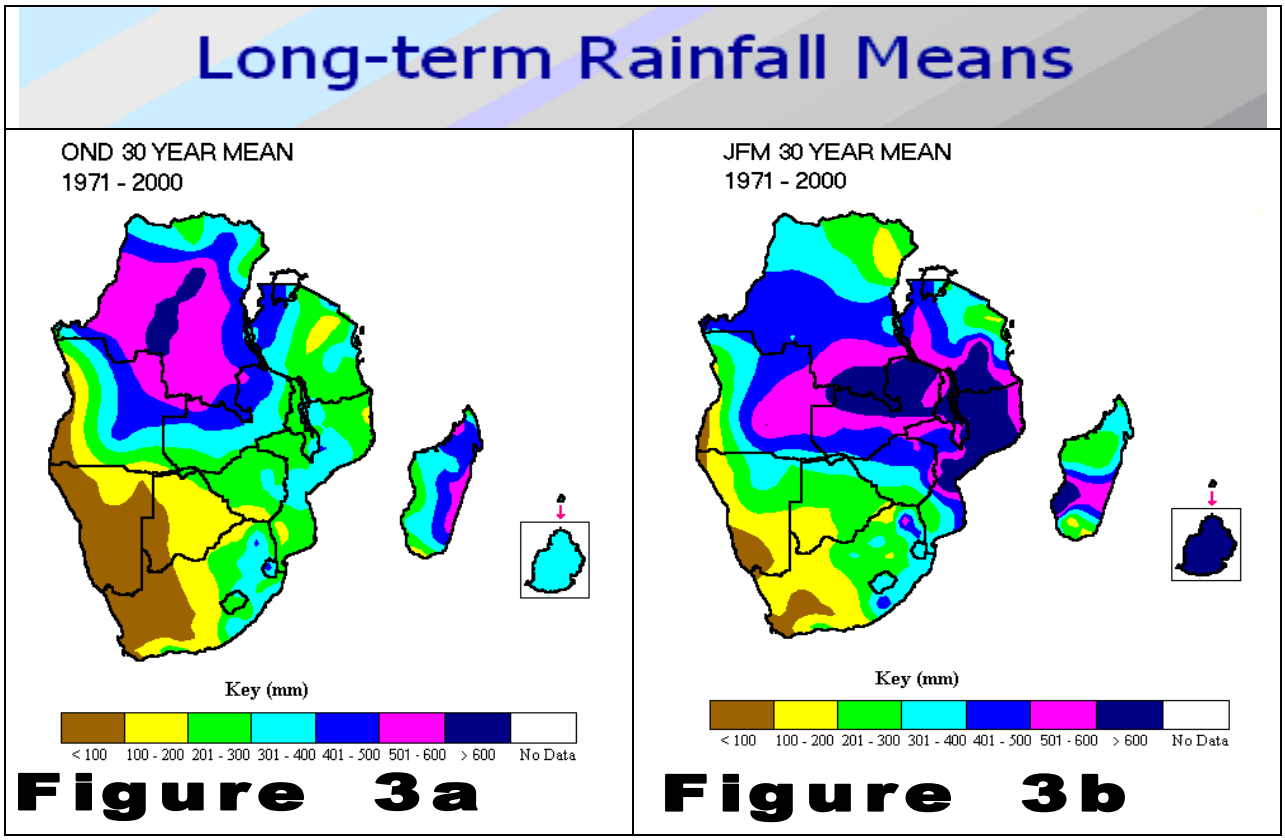


FIGURE CAPTION
It is emphasized that boundaries between zones should be considered as transition areas. Forecast information is provided only for countries that comprise the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region. The numbers for each zone indicate the

probabilities of rainfall in each of the three categories, below-normal, normal and above-normal. The top number indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category, the middle number is for normal and the bottom number is for below-normal. For example in the case Figure 1, for Zone I, there is a 35% probability of rainfall occurring in the above-normal category; a 40% probability in the normal category; and 25% probability in the below-normal category.

Figure 3 (a) and (b) show the long-term (1971-2000) mean rainfall over SADC countries. Rainfall increases from southwest to northeast over contiguous SADC in either case. Over Madagascar the rains increase from west to east, while the rains are more uniformly distributed in Mauritius. The legend shows the amounts in millimetres.